

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE
EXPANSION OF PUMP STATION 12 OVERLOOK PARKING:

ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE COMPANY
1835 S BRAGAW STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99512

RIGHT-OF-WAY APPLICATION
AA050930
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. BPM 92-014

PREPARED BY:

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ALASKA STATE OFFICE
BRANCH OF PIPELINE MONITORING
411 W. 4th AVENUE, SUITE 2B
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

September 3, 1992

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, ALASKA
BRANCH OF PIPELINE MONITORING (983)

I. NEPA REQUIREMENTS

Introduction

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (Alyeska) has requested authorization to develop additional parking at the public overlook just west of Pump Station 12 approximately 65 miles north of Valdez. The development will be authorized by amendment to an existing right-of-way grant under the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act, 97 Stat. 584 (1973). This assessment addresses the construction of the parking area.

Issues

BLM staff members have raised the following issues and concerns: (1) disposition of slash and logs from clearing activities, visual impacts of the site location, and (3) public safety.

(C) Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, Policies, Plans or other Environmental Analyses

The statute that applies to this proposed action is the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act. Alyeska holds a Federal right-of-way grant for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), and individual grants for related facilities such as that considered in this assessment. The project area is located on public lands managed by BLM. The relevant planning document is the Southcentral Management Framework Plan approved in 1981. The proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan as required by 43 CFR 1610.5.

Two environmental impact statements have been completed for separate pipeline projects, each of which cover this application area. These documents are referenced in Section III of this document.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Purpose and Need for Action

The proposed action is needed to provide additional parking for large recreation vehicles at the site. There is currently inadequate parking space at the site.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is clearing and blading to construct a level gravel pad for public parking. The pad will involve using a 300x300 foot area. The site is adjacent to the developed area previously granted for the overlook in Section 36, T. 4 S., R. 1 E., C.R.M. at Richardson Highway milepost 64.7.

No Action Alternative

The no action alternative would be to deny Alyeska's request to utilize the public lands. This inaction would prevent the remediation of parking and vehicle turnaround problems currently experienced by larger recreational vehicles at the site.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Introduction

The affected environment for the area of the proposed action is discussed in the following documents: Alyeska's Oil Spill Contingency Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (1973) and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Trans-Alaska Gas System (1988).

The construction area is level unconsolidated alluvium with numerous small (15-20 foot tall) aspen and understory of shrubs common to well drained sites in this area. It is adjacent to existing access and the developed parking and overlook site.

(B) The following critical elements of the human environment are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation or Executive Order. These critical elements have been analyzed for the proposed action and no significant impacts are likely to occur:

<u>Critical Elements</u>	<u>May Be Impacted</u>	<u>Can be Mitigated</u>
1. Air Quality	No	
2. ACEC's	No	
3. Cultural and Historic	No	
4. Farmland, Prime or Unique	No	
5. Floodplains	No	
6. Nat. Amer. Rel Concerns	No	
7. Paleontological	No	
8. Threatened/Endangered	No	
9. Visual Resources	Yes	Yes
10. Waste, Hazardous/Solid	No	
11. Water Quality	No	
12. Wetlands/Riparian Zones	No	
13. Wild & Scenic Rivers	No	
14. Wilderness Values	No	

No ACECs are affected.

No known cultural resource sites are located in the immediate project area. Construction will require overlay of materials after leveling and removal of vegetative matter. No excavation is planned.

There is no reasonably foreseeable restriction to subsistence activity or access, or effect on the availability or productivity of resources for subsistence use which will result from the proposed action.

No fueling of vehicles or storage of hazardous materials would occur on site

This is not a wilderness area. No wilderness values would be affected by the proposed action.

Clearing and developing a parking area will potentially alter the view shed. Screening of the parking area by natural vegetation may be aesthetically preferred.

(C) Mitigation

1. Prior to commencement of surface disturbing activities, the right-of-way limits, as well as the construction zone limits, shall be staked.
2. The site shall be cleared and layed out within the right-of-way area to minimize visual impact of the development. This may be accomplished by leaving natural vegetation intact on the east side of the clearing to act as a buffer for the view from the highway.
3. Cleared materials shall be chipped on site, burned completely or removed from the site for disposal where they will not cause either a fire hazard or potential spruce beetle problems.

RESIDUAL IMPACTS

No long term residual impacts are expected to occur.

ANILCA SECTION 810 SUBSISTENCE EVALUATION

This action is not likely to impact the subsistence resources of the area. The surface disturbance will be confined to an area approximately two acres in total. Public access will not be developed or restricted, and will continue to be subject to existing laws and regulations.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Persons and Agencies Consulted.

Stan Bronczyk, BLM BPM (983)
Dave Trudgeon, APSC

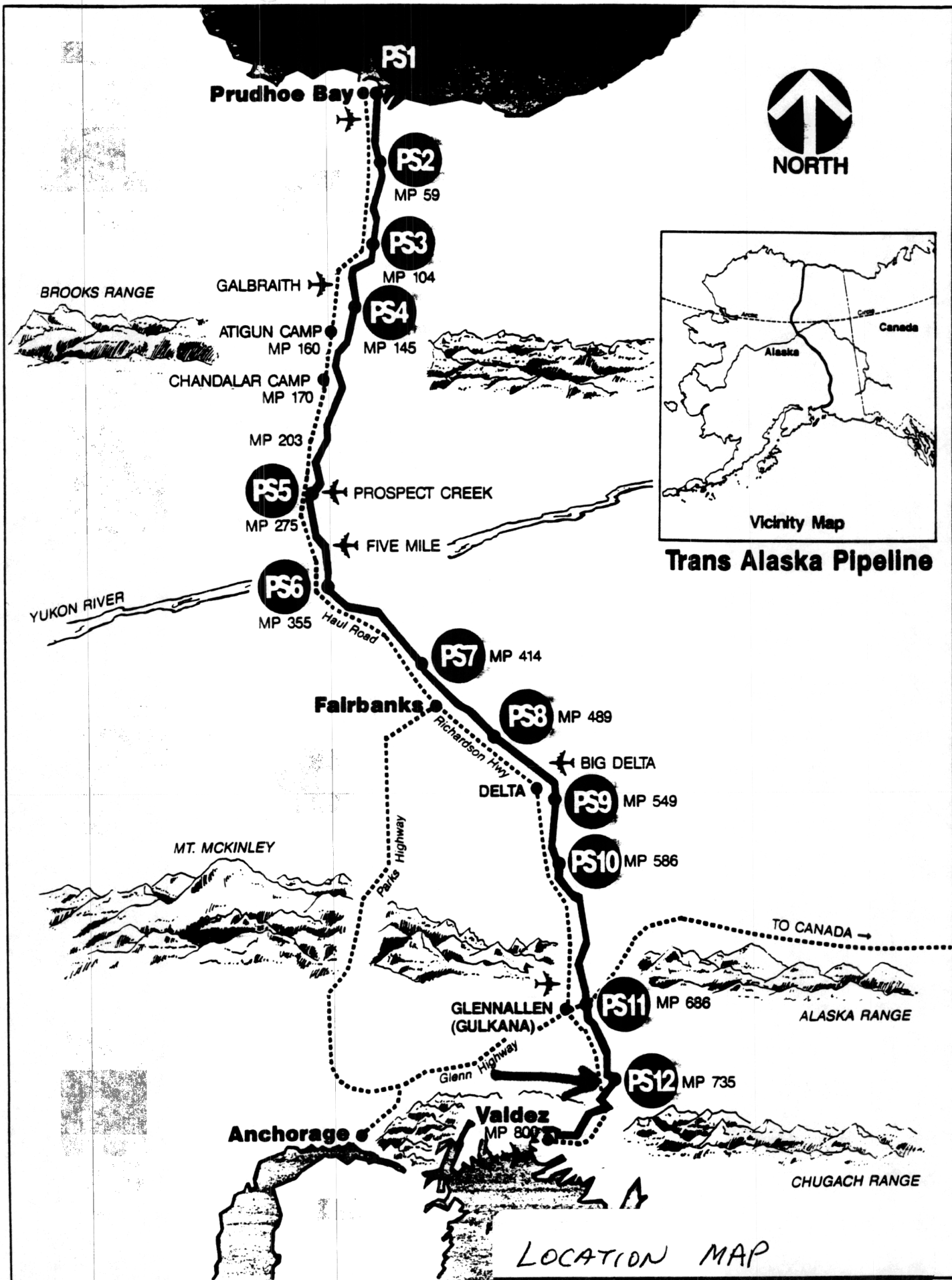
VI. LOCATION REFERENCES

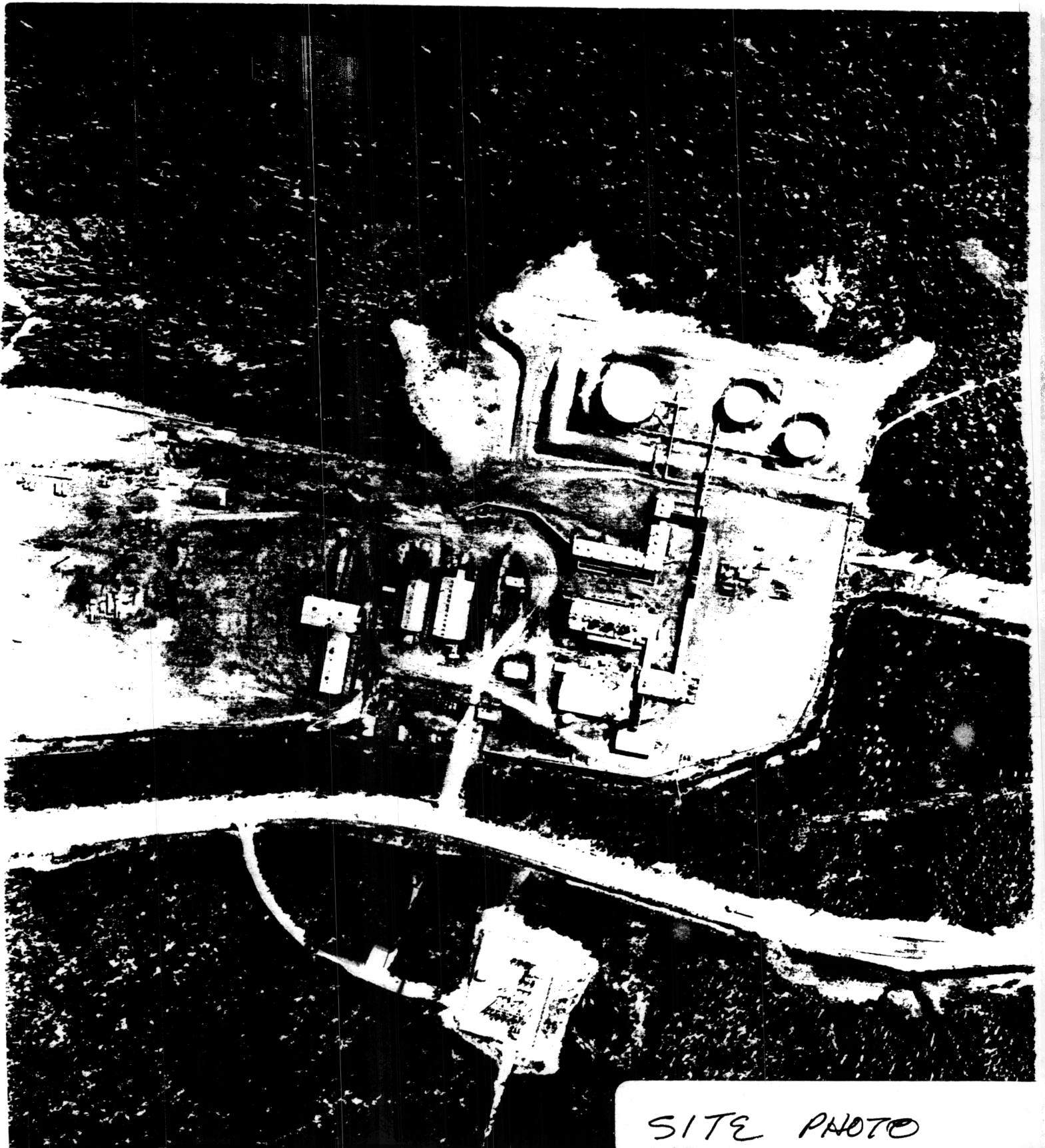
G-100 series, Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, Prudhoe Bay to Valdez, sheet 131, as revised.

A location map is attached.

Prepared: 

Date: 





SITE PHOTO

☐ PROPOSED ADDITION

EXISTING R/W GRANT
AA-50930

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND DECISION RECORD


Decision: It is my decision to grant a right-of-way to authorize construction of a parking area to supplement existing parking at the public overlook near Pump Station 12, 65 miles north of Valdez, Alaska. Individual site requirements, including mitigation as necessary, will be incorporated into the Notices to Proceed written for the action. The action is authorized pursuant to the Pipeline Authorization Act, 87 Stat. 584 (1973). A rental fee based upon fair market value appraisal will be collected for the right-of-way.

I have selected the proposed action as the environmentally preferred alternative. All mitigation measures identified in the environmental assessment will be applied to the grant for this action.

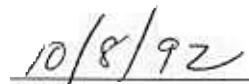
Finding of No Significant Impact: Based upon the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that the impact on the human environment is not expected to be significant. An environmental impact statement is not required.

The evaluation and finding done to comply with Section 810 of ANILCA found no impact on subsistence use.

Rationale for the Decision: This proposed action will not result in undue or unnecessary environmental degradation, will not restrict subsistence activity or resources, and will offer the benefit of additional safe parking at this Alyeska maintained facility.



Branch of Pipeline Monitoring



Date